

Of these, (a) has a priority date of April 14, 1997; (b) has a priority date of November 25, 1998; (c) and (d) share a priority claim and date with this present application (November 27, 1998); and (e) has a priority date of March 28, 2001. Out of an abundance of caution, the undersigned is presently preparing an Information Disclosure Statement for cross-citing prior art from these related cases herein. This will be filed as soon as possible.

The rejection of claims 1-3, 7-15 and 18-22 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly anticipated by the newly cited Smith '732 reference is respectfully traversed.

Prior amendment to independent claim 1 requires coupled base and media modules (i.e., "wherein said media oriented data necessary for a user to receive each media stream is generated in one or more respective media modules within the session description" and a "base module" is generated "comprising user oriented data relevant to the media session") as well as requiring the provision of a "two-way link between the base module and each media module" and "wherein the link to each media module permits a user to access each media module subsequent to the base module". The same limitations appear in independent claim 7, independent claim 19 and independent claim 21.

The Examiner quotes (or paraphrases) applicants' claim language at page 3 but then merely refers to column 11, line 45 through column 12, line 11 and column 15, lines

14-52 for alleged support in the cited reference. The applicant (which includes a common inventor: Smith), does not find any such teaching or suggestion in the cited passages -- nor anywhere else in the cited reference document. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the cited reference cannot anticipate any of the rejected independent claims 1, 7, 19, 21 or any claim dependent therefrom.

With respect to independent claim 20, the Examiner does not provide any further allegations to support the rejection of claim 20. Instead, the Examiner merely alleges that claim 20 carries out the method steps of claim 7 and is therefore rejected for the same reasons as claim 7. If that is presumed, arguendo, to be the case, then claim 20 is distinguished from the cited prior art for the same reasons as set forth above with respect to independent claim 7 (insofar as the Examiner is correct in this assertion -- there being no other outstanding ground of rejection for claim 20).

The rejection of dependent claims 4, 5, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being made "obvious" based on Smith '732 in view of "XML" is also respectfully traversed.

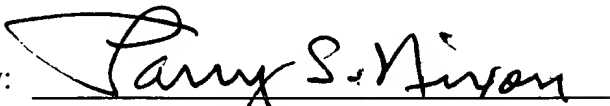
In view of fundamental deficiencies of the primary reference to Smith '732 as noted above for parent claims, these dependent claims are clearly also patentably distinct for reasons already noted. That is, it is not believed necessary at this time to go into detail about the deficiencies of the combination herein asserted by the Examiner.

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Accordingly, this entire application is now believed to be in allowable condition
and a formal Notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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